

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claim 18 is withdrawn.

Claims 1-7 and 9 are rejected.

Claims 10-17 and 19-20 are allowed.

Claim 8 is objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended.

I. Claim Objections

Claim 8 is objected to for lacking an antecedent basis. Claim 8 is cancelled and the subject of claim 8 has been moved into claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,329,601) in view of Glass et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,703,996). Regarding claim 1, the Office Action states that Nakamura fails to disclose an optical detector comprising amorphous semiconductor material integral to the optical directional coupler and operable to select at least one of the voltage differentials. However, the Office Action contends that these features are taught by Glass. At 3. Also, the Office Action states that claim 8 contains allowable matter. At 5.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 8 and the intervening claim 7. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Regarding claims 2-6 and 9, these claims depend from claim 1 directly or indirectly, and therefore are allowable for at least the reasons set forth with respect to amended claim 1.

III. Allowed Claims

The Examiner has allowed claims 10-17 and 19-20. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

IV. Summary

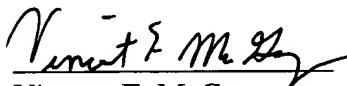
Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections, it is believed that in view of the preceding remarks, this entire application stands in a condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, he is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at the number and address below in order that any outstanding issues may be resolved without the necessity of issuing a further Action. An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Please address all future correspondence to Intellectual Property Docket Administrator, Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione, One Riverfront Plaza, Newark, NJ 07102-5496. Telephone calls should be made to Vincent E. McGeary at (973) 596-4837 or (973) 596-4500.

V. Fees

If any additional fees are due in respect to this amendment, please also charge them to Deposit Account No. 03-3839.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent E. McGeary", written over a horizontal line.

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